

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF PEABODY.

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, AS YOUR MAYOR,
TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR CITY AT THE MID-POINT OF MY CURRENT
TERM OF OFFICE.

MUCH OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS PAST YEAR AND IN OTHER
YEARS HAS BEEN DUE TO THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE
AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. I WANT TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK LAST YEAR'S CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHARON
KOKORAS FOR HER HELP AND COOPERATION IN EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINING A
SMOOTH AND ORDERLY WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BRANCHES OF OUR
GOVERNMENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO BOB DRISCOLL, THE NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT, FOR 1991. I HAVE NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HE WILL DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH BOB IN ADDRESSING THE MANY ISSUES WE WILL BE FACING OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

THIS MORNING I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SPECIAL POINT OF THANKING THE PEOPLE WHO SERVE ON OUR MANY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, WHO GIVE UNSELFISHLY OF THEMSELVES AS VOLUNTEERS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND MANY TIMES UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY ARE TRULY THE UNSUNG HEROES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR DEPARTMENT HEADS, STATE DELEGATION AND RANK AND FILE EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR HELP AND COMMITMENT. WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE PEABODY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK AND LIVE.

THIS WEEK MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEABODY BECOMING A CITY. OUR CITY'S HISTORY DATES BACK TO OUR FIRST SETTLERS IN 1629. PEABODY BECAME A TOWN IN 1868 AND IN 1916 THE VOTERS, BY A 55 VOTE MARGIN, ESTABLISHED PEABODY AS THE 37TH CITY IN THE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

SINCE OUR FIRST SETTLERS SOME 362 YEARS AGO AND OUR FIRST CITY GOVERNMENT 75 YEARS AGO, WE HAVE ALWAYS REMAINED A COMMUNITY OF GREAT TRADITION AND PRIDE. WE HAVE BEEN A BEACON OF HOPE AND A PLACE OF FULFILLMENT FOR THE EARLY SETTLERS, THE THOUSANDS OF NEW ARRIVALS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, TO THE MOST RECENTLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS.

LET US BE EVER MINDFUL OF THE DRAMATIC CHANGES OUR COMMUNITY HAS GONE THROUGH. SINCE THE FIRST SETTLERS IN 1629 AND THE CHANGE IN 1916 FROM TOWN TO CITY GOVERNMENT, OUR PREDECESSORS MET EVERY CHALLENGE ALONG THE WAY WITH COURAGE AND CONVICTION AS THEY SHAPED THEIR COMMUNITY.

S. HOWARD DONNELL, THE FIRST MAYOR IN THE HISTORY OF OUR CITY, STATED IN HIS FIRST INAUGURAL, AND I QUOTE, "IN ENTERING UPON THE UNTRIED SCENES OF THE NEW CITY GOVERNMENT EARLY DISAPPOINTMENT IS CERTAIN UNLESS THERE EXISTS AMONG THE CITIZENS AN UNSWERVING TRUST IN US WHO STAND AT THE HELM. THE WHOLE CITY IS INTERESTED IN THE RESULT OF THIS EXPERIMENT AND WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS FOR WEAL, OR WOE ITS FATE.

LET US, THEN, REJECT ALL PARTISANSHIP, ACT HONESTLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD, AND TRUST THE PEOPLE FOR SUPPORT. IF WE ARE TRUE TO OUR CITY AND THOSE WHO COME AFTER US SHALL BE TRUE TO IT ALSO, WE SHALL ELEVATE HER TO A POSITION OF PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS NEVER YET REACHED BY ANY CITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH." THAT STATEMENT WITH ITS SIGNIFICANT MEANING HOLDS TRUE TODAY AS IT DID 75 YEARS AGO.

AS WE WORK THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, LET US REMIND OURSELVES THAT OUR PREDECESSORS FACED FAR GREATER CHALLENGES. FROM OUR EARLY SETTLERS WHO WORKED TO CARVE OUT THIS COMMUNITY UNDER ADVERSE CONDITIONS, THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY, CIVIL AND WORLD WARS, AS WELL AS THROUGH THE DEPRESSIONS AND RECESSIONS, OUR CITY AND ITS PEOPLE SURVIVED AND FLOURISHED AS A COMMUNITY.

LOOKING AT THE ROAD AHEAD, HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT APPEARS, LET US REMIND OURSELVES THAT IT PALES IN COMPARISON TO WHAT OUR PREDECESSORS FACED AND OVERCAME AS OUR CITY GREW AND PROSPERED.

WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND, IT IS DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES THAT WE MUST LEAD THE WAY AND PROVIDE STRONG LEADERSHIP. IT IS A TIME WE NEED TO INSPIRE AND TO SEND OUT A MESSAGE OF HOPE TO ALL OUR

PEOPLE. IT IS NOT A TIME TO SIT IN DESPAIR AND TALK OF GLOOM AND DOOM, BUT RATHER A TIME FOR IDEAS AND VISION AND WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH AS A COMMUNITY. IT IS A TIME TO ACT, NOT REACT.

ALTHOUGH THE CHALLENGES WE FACE WILL BE DIFFICULT AND WILL REQUIRE MAKING MANY TOUGH DECISIONS, I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN WITHOUT IMPACT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IT WILL TAKE COOPERATION FROM ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

LAST YEAR IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS I OUTLINED SOME OF THE GOALS THAT WE HAD SET FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION. TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY UPDATE YOU ON THEIR STATUS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS: COMPLETION OF THE WEST PEABODY BRANCH LIBRARY; \$100,000 FOR ADDITIONAL BOOKS FOR ALL OUR LIBRARIES; \$200,000 FOR ADDITIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS; COMPLETION OF THE 6 MILLION DOLLAR DOWNTOWN URBAN SYSTEMS PROJECT, ALONG WITH OTHER TRAFFIC PROJECTS AT LAKE AND LOWELL, RUSSELL AND LOWELL, AND LYNN AND COUNTY STREETS.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED IN LAST YEAR'S INAUGURAL THE NEED TO CONTINUE HOUSING REHABILITATION, THE FACADE LOAN PROGRAM AND THE PURSUIT OF

ANOTHER YEAR'S ALLOCATION IN THE SMALL CITIES GRANT PROGRAM. WE DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR A MASTER PLAN FOR THE NEXT DECADE, AND TALKED ABOUT STARTING OUR NEW SENIOR CENTER. WE SET GOALS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS, STREET IMPROVEMENTS, IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.

OTHER GOALS WERE A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY. WE DISCUSSED THE NEED TO EXPAND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUCH AS PRIDE IN PEABODY, INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, HARVEST FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAY FESTIVAL.

THERE WERE ALSO MANY OTHER GOALS NOT MENTIONED SUCH AS THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF J.B. THOMAS HOSPITAL, THE CEMETERY EXPANSION PROGRAM BOTH AT CEDAR GROVE AND OAK GROVE, THE FORMATION OF THE CONVENTION COUNCIL, THE ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE LAND, THE CLOSE OUT OF ALL OUR UDAG GRANTS, THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT THE FORMER PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT, THE EXPANDED RECYCLING PROGRAM, AND MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDER WAY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS GRATIFYING FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AND BE ABLE TO REPORT "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" ON ALL COUNTS. LET ME ALSO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THE MANY WHO ASSISTED AND WORKED HARD TO HELP US REACH OUR GOALS.

AS WE PROCEED INTO 1991, FINANCING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE WILL BE A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR ALL WHO MANAGE MUNICIPAL BUDGETS. I BELIEVE PEABODY HAS DONE WELL DELIVERING THE SERVICES THAT PROVIDE FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR CITY.

DESPITE THE SEVERE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND THE CUT BACKS ON LOCAL AID WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE OUR CITIZENS A STABLE TAX RATE ONCE AGAIN, AND DID NOT HAVE TO BORROW IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES. WE WERE ALSO OVER 5 MILLION DOLLARS BELOW WHAT OUR LEVY UNDER PROPOSITION 2-1/2 ALLOWS, GIVING OUR CITIZENS SOME NEEDED TAX RELIEF.

DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES WE SHOULD ALL TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT WHILE THE COMMONWEALTH'S BOND RATING PUMMELED TO THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY, OUR BOND RATING, AFTER REVIEW BY MOODY INVESTMENT AND STANDARD AND POOR, WAS ELEVATED TO A VERY FAVORABLE A1 AND AA- RESPECTIVELY. THIS WAS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE CONFIDENCE

THE RATING AGENCIES HAVE IN THE CITY OF PEABODY.

AS EACH DAY PASSES WE CONTINUE TO HEAR OF THE SERIOUS BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS THAT ARE HAVING FAR REACHING NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON CITIES AND TOWNS ALL OVER THIS COMMONWEALTH; FROM MAJOR CUTS IN PERSONNEL AND SERVICES TO THE GROWING DEFICIT POSITION THAT THREATENS TO CREATE EVEN GREATER PROBLEMS THIS COMING FISCAL YEAR.

MY FIRST GOAL FOR 1991 IS TO AVOID THE CHAOS, CONFUSION AND FINANCIAL NIGHTMARE THAT PLAGUES SO MANY COMMUNITIES.

TO DATE WE HAVE NOT IMPACTED THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF SERVICES IN OUR CITY. TO CONTINUE THIS WILL NOT BE EASY GIVEN THE MANY OBSTACLES THAT WE WILL FACE SUCH AS NEGOTIATING NEW UNION CONTRACTS, THE DRAMATICALLY INCREASING COST OF HEALTH CARE BENEFITS, FUNDING THE INCREASED COST OF SECONDARY TREATMENT AT THE SOUTH ESSEX SEWERAGE DISTRICT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, INCREASED PENSION COSTS, REDUCTION IN GROWTH REVENUES, THE ALREADY REDUCED LEVELS OF LOCAL AID AND THE POTENTIAL OF ADDITIONAL CUTS THAT WOULD BE DEVASTATING. ADD TO THAT GENERAL INCREASES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES TO MENTION A FEW. IF WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND

FAIRNESS I BELIEVE WE CAN DELIVER ALL THE SERVICES OUR CITIZENS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO RECEIVING AND AT THE SAME TIME KEEP ALL OUR EMPLOYEES WORKING AND NOT FEARING THE LOSS OF THEIR JOBS.

FROM TIME TO TIME THERE ARE THOSE WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT LOW MORALE IN THE WORK PLACE. THERE CAN BE NOTHING MORE DEVASTATING TO MORALE THAN LOSING YOUR JOB AND NOT BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR YOURSELF OR FAMILY. ASK THE HUNDREDS RIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE FACED WITH THAT TERRIBLE PROBLEM.

AS WE LOOK TO 1991 WE MUST BE PREPARED TO MOVE OUR CITY FORWARD AND TAKE ACTION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

WE MUST OVERSEE THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE NEW SENIOR CENTER, AS WELL AS THE EXPANSION OF OUR CEMETARY PROGRAM INCLUDING ITS NEW OFFICE AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING.

WE MUST OVERSEE THE RECENTLY AWARDED \$800,000 SMALL CITIES GRANT TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF EXPENDITURES.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT JUST

AS WE HAVE TO DATE MET EVERY REQUIREMENT AND TIME LIMIT THUS FAR.
THIS PROGRAM WILL ASSURE BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WATER FOR THE
NEXT GENERATION AND BEYOND.

WE MUST PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE MASTER PLAN WHICH WILL
GIVE US A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE.

AS MANY OF THE AREA HOSPITALS HAVE CLOSED, J.B. THOMAS STILL
REMAINS OPEN AND PROVIDES QUALITY HEALTH CARE TO OUR COMMUNITY AND
BEYOND. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER IN CONCERT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT THAT IT CONTINUES TO DO SO INTO THE FUTURE.

FINALLY, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH.
THEREFORE I WILL BE SELECTING ONE OF THE MANY FIRMS THAT HAS SUBMITTED
PROPOSALS TO DESIGN THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND
AFTER DESIGN WE WILL BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION. THIS WILL PUT US IN A
VERY FAVORABLE POSITION TO MARKET THE LAND, THEREBY CREATING NEW JOB
OPPORTUNITIES ALONG WITH A BROADENED TAX BASE.

THE RECENTLY FORMED CONVENTION COUNCIL WITH PEABODY, SALEM AND
DANVERS WILL BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN 1991 IN TRYING TO HELP STIMULATE

THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND HELP DEVELOP A WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ATTEMPT OTHER COLLECTIVE VENTURES.

IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE WILL BE UPDATING OUR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN WHICH HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE TOOL THUS FAR, BUT HAS REACHED A POINT THAT CALLS FOR REASSESSMENT.

WE WILL BE PUTTING OUT TO BID IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE ADDITION TO THE EXISTING BROOKSBY FARM BUILDING PROVIDING NEEDED EXPANSION.

THE SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WILL BE UPDATED TO ALLOW FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR INVESTMENT BOTH IN OUR BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT WILL NOT BE IMPACTED IN REGARDS TO PROGRAMS AND STAFFING LEVELS WHICH WILL ALLOW THE ORDERLY OPERATION AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO OUR STUDENTS.

WE WILL BE WORKING TO PROVIDE AT LEAST THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICE IN PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC SERVICES, PARKS AND RECREATION, LIBRARY AND ALL OTHER SERVICES CRITICAL TO PROVIDING A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN

OUR COMMUNITY. WE WILL AGAIN BE FUNDING ALL OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AS WELL AS SOME FUNDING FOR AN APPROPRIATE CELEBRATION FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CITY.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES PLANNED FOR 1991 WHICH WILL HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE TRAFFIC CONCERNS. THESE IMPROVEMENTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN OUR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT STUDY.

EACH YEAR FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS I HAVE COMMITTED AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000 ABOVE THE BUDGETED AMOUNT TO THE LIBRARY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL BOOKS AND RESEARCH MATERIALS. ALSO, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, I HAVE COMMITTED \$200,000 A YEAR FOR THE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT OF NEW PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS. TODAY I RECOMMIT TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM INTO FY 92. OUR PARKS AND LIBRARIES HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED AND I WANT OUR CITIZENS TO HAVE THE VERY BEST IN THESE TWO AREAS WHICH HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT IN THE QUALITY OF A COMMUNITY. BUT I MUST QUALIFY THAT ANY MAJOR CUT BACKS IN LOCAL AID WOULD REQUIRE A REASSESSMENT OF THIS COMMITMENT.

MANAGING THE CITY'S FINANCES WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF MY TOP

PRIORITIES. I HAVE ALREADY NOTIFIED DEPARTMENT HEADS WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM AND THE BUDGETARY PROCESS WILL COMMENCE WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. I CAN ASSURE YOU, AS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST, YOU WILL RECEIVE A VERY TIGHT AND BALANCED BUDGET.

THERE WILL BE MANY OTHER ISSUES WE WILL BE FACING IN 1991. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY AS A COMMUNITY. PEOPLE TALK ABOUT PEABODY TODAY FOR THE RIGHT REASONS AND THE MASTER PLAN LABELS PEABODY AS A DESTINATION COMMUNITY. WE SHOULD NOT SIT BACK AND FEEL THAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THAT WE CAN. RATHER PAST SUCCESSES SHOULD ONLY BE THE INCENTIVE FOR CREATING IN US THE DESIRE TO ACHIEVE GREATER SUCCESS. WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO TAKE OUR PLANS, VISIONS AND DREAMS AND TRANSFORM THEM INTO REALITY. THERE IS NO GREATER REWARD THAN TO HEAR ONE OF OUR CITIZENS SAY, "I AM PROUD TO LIVE IN PEABODY". OUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO HAVE EVERY CITIZEN FEEL THAT WAY.

AS WE START THE NEW YEAR LET ME EXTEND TO ALL THE FAMILIES IN THE CITY WHO HAVE LOVED ONES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OUR BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY AND QUICK RETURN HOME. OUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS ARE BOTH WITH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

